



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Two Men Sentenced to Prison Terms In Armed Burglary of Residence - Father and Two Young Daughters Were Inside the Apartment -

WASHINGTON - Marquis Robertson, 29, and Niam Pannell, 26, both of Washington, D.C., were sentenced today to prison terms on charges stemming from the armed burglary of an occupied residence in Northwest Washington, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Robertson was sentenced to 11 years in prison on one count of first degree burglary while armed. Pannell was sentenced to six years in prison for first degree burglary. Both men pled guilty to charges in May 2011 and were sentenced by the Honorable Ronna L. Beck in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Following completion of their prison terms, the defendants will be placed on five years of supervised release.

According to the statement of facts agreed to by the parties, on January 10, 2011, at approximately 7:20 p.m., the defendants knocked on the door of an apartment in the 2500 block of Ontario Road NW. When the resident opened the door, both Robertson and Pannell were wearing masks and displayed handguns. They forced their way into the apartment, ordered the man to sit down, and demanded, "Where's the money at? Where's the Gucci at?"

When the man replied that he did not have anything, Robertson, who had taken off his mask, struck him in the face with his hand. Robertson then ordered the man to go into a rear bedroom with him. Once there, Robertson again struck the man in the face, demanding his money. Then, he smashed a flat screen television and a computer monitor that were in the back bedroom. He also threatened the man's two young daughters, who were in the apartment.

Pannell, who was an acquaintance of the victim, walked into another bedroom and took a Play Station 3 (PS3) game set from inside the bedroom. He and Robertson also took approximately 30 PS3 games, jewelry, book bags, and articles of clothing.

Pannell ordered the man to remain in the back bedroom with his hands up. Both defendants then exited the apartment.

Surveillance cameras showed the defendants entering and leaving the apartment building. When they left, they were carrying bags and clothing that they did not have when they arrived at the building. In addition, a semi-automatic handgun, matching the description of the handgun Robertson was carrying, was recovered by law enforcement from Robertson's girlfriend's apartment on January 30, 2011.

In announcing the sentences, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of Detective Pamela Herndon of the Metropolitan Police Department. He also expressed his appreciation to Assistant U.S. Attorney Trevor McFadden, who investigated and prosecuted the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Mona Sahaf, who handled the investigation into the January 30, 2011, gun recovery.

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